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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Rosalie A. Centeno
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In the Application of Elmar Wiejack-Symann

Ser.No.: 10/536,793

Filed: May 26, 2005

For: DRAG CHAIN CONVEYOR HAVING PLASTIC CARRIERS

Customer Number: 30996

Commissioner of Patents

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56, Applicant wishes to call the attention of the Examiner to the following references:

- 1) WO 01/81211
- 2) US 6,073,752
- 3) DE 38 01 618
- 4) GB 1 570 149 (corresponds with DE 27 48 836)
- 5) DE 196 33 298
- 6) DE 196 37 624
- 7) DE 101 12 597
- 8) DE 198 57 399

Reference 1 is discussed in the instant specification for this application on page 1.

References 2 – 3 have been cited in the International Search Report and are submitted in order to provide the Examiner with easy access to said references.

Reference 4 is in the English language and therefore need no further discussion as to its relevance.

Reference 5, DE 196 33 298, discloses a conveyer chain used in esp. a food processing plant consists of a series of links of round cross-section. Two metal rods pass through the eye of a link at right angles to the plane formed by a plastic molding interface. The projecting ends of the rods are covered left and right of the link by a two-part push-fit plastic molding incorporating holes for the rods and mirror-image recesses for the chain link. The plastic esp. HDPE, POM or PA moldings are each of rectangular cross-section with a flat surface with a thickened section at the root around the link.

Reference 6, DE 196 37 624, discloses that Each support element driven by at least one traction mechanism has a single fastening attaching it to the traction mechanism. The fastenings are in the form of detachable snap fastenings formed of carriers fixed onto the traction mechanism and support feet formed on the support elements. The support feet are placed over the carriers. The traction mechanism consists of a flexible, middle, coated steel cable over which the plastics spherical carriers are equidistantly spaced apart and enclose the cable on all sides. The support elements adjoin each other and have a support plate.

Reference 7, DE 101 12 597, discloses a tube conveyor for bulk material that has disks which fit against the inner walls of the tube. Each of these is mounted on a link of the chain and is made up of two halves with a contoured centering surface which passes through its center point. An Independent claim is included for the disks.

Reference 8, DE198 57 399, discloses a mechanical handling transport chain that consists of a series of links. Add on catches are fitted at intervals to the chain by foot pieces

and project to interlock with the transport items in question. The foot piece has a transverse groove with a blocking element preventing loss of the projecting catch.

In accordance with United States Patent and Trademark practice, it is no longer necessary to enclose copies of U.S. Patents.

Copies of the listed documents, with the exception of any US Patent references, are submitted herewith along with the form PTO-1449.

It is respectfully requested that any fees required and not enclosed herewith or any shortages in any fees be charged to Deposit Account 02-1653.

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures